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On Behalf Of: North Salem High School Special Education Programs
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2953

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Honored Chairpeople and Committee Members,

I am curious, how well could you all do your jobs if someone funded your budget 20-40% less

than almost half of the other states spend in total dollars and as a total % of voter income? How

good would Oregon be as a state? How good would its future be?

Business people and business owners, some of which are also part of this committee, how well

could you run your businesses if you had 20-40% less funding that you needed to run your

business effectively? Could you turn a profit? Break even? Then why would we fund schools,

with inadequate sources of money? To educate the future staff of your businesses, to fund our

state's budget (future tax dollars) and to staff our legislature and all of the schools, Universities/Colleges and state, county and city offices?

Yes, the math and reading scores were very bad, but including the pandemic effects on our kids,

here may be why! Look below, the scary numbers for our state of Oregon in how we have

invested in our kids, our future! Wonder why you believe you can't get good people helping you

in stores, for your business, working for the government in Oregon? Now we know!!

We get

what we put into our future employees, business owners and leaders and their teachers, aides,

support staff, professors, instructors. We are not doing well.

World Population Review Figures (worldpopulationreview.com)

<https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/per-pupil-spending-by-state>

We are 25th in \$/student spending in the US and only 9 states spend less than us as a % of

taxpayer income. 3.18%. The top 10 states spend, on average, 36% more per taxpayer than

Oregon taxpayers. The top 20 spend 27% more. The top 24 spend 20% more.

Maybe we should also be finding out how the schools and their teachers are turning a handful of

magic beans into where we are at right now: folding their pennies over and over, many times
spending their own money (including for snacks). Don't forget class sizes are still not capped for elementary/secondary schools. With up to 35-40 freshmen in classes. Ever tried to get the focused attention of that many freshmen on something other than TikTok or Instagram? Many senior classes with 20-30. How well do you think that works?
Also, don't forget the last 5 graduating classes were crushed by the necessary solutions to prevent a pandemic from decimating our nation 5 years ago. Caused a lot of our current challenges. In our district, many kids were stuck at home with little to no internet with 0 to 4 siblings sharing bandwidth on the same or split days when the oldest also had to run the show (be a child care worker, parent, tech support and student) and get all of their stuff done too.
We'll improve greatly depending on how we handle any trauma or setbacks in their education and retention from then. Need more help here.

Still, Oregon also currently caps funding for our most challenged learners at 11% of the district population. On average, districts #'s for these deserving kids are at 13-17% (equals 18-55% underfunded in addition to schools being underfunded overall) of district's populations. We need more Teacher Aides and more teachers! We need to help our most challenged learners! Even more kids, missing out on a good education.
Could be training more Special Education kids for careers. More kids in our CTEC program (Career Technical Education Center.). Expand it to more industries and accept more kids. We all benefit from a good education! They will need fewer safety net services, contribute more in total taxes towards the budget, employers get better employees, etc. Sounds good, huh?

Yes, Districts need to be held accountable, but at least give them a fair financial and emotional playing field first. Then could we all come up with more solutions to increase Oregon's

investment in OUR kids and future to get to 12th or 15th in ranking? We, the educators need help! Kids too!! Oregon's future!! Thank you!